

the media contents ID is 1 has a music piece title of "Song-A", equipment ID of "0x001BA63F", equipment contents ID of "0x0083", number of times of check-out of "0", copy control information of "1", and the music piece data pointer thereof is "0x5A00". Accordingly, the contents wherein the media contents ID is "1" is permitted to be checked-in to equipment wherein the equipment ID is "0x001BA63F". The contents wherein the media contents ID is "1" is not permitted to be checked-in to any equipment other than that wherein the equipment ID is "0x001BA63F".

The contents wherein the media contents ID is 2 has a music piece title of "Song-B", equipment ID of "0x6EBD734C", equipment contents ID of "0x0003", number of times of check-out of "3", copy control information of "2", and the music piece data pointer thereof is "0x7BC0". Accordingly, the contents wherein the media contents ID is "2" is moved from equipment wherein the equipment ID is "0x6EBD734C", and moving is permitted.

The contents wherein the media contents ID is 3 has a music piece title of "Song-C", equipment ID of "0x9D712C5A", equipment contents ID of "0x00AF", number of times of check-out of "3", copy control information of "3", and the music piece data pointer thereof is "0x93F0". Accordingly, the contents wherein the media contents ID is "3" is stored by equipment wherein the equipment ID is "0x9D712C5A", and

importing is permitted.

Importing contents will be described with reference to Fig. 5.

The memory card 9 stores importing-permitted contents stored from an EMD server 3, terminal device 6, or portable device 5-4.

In the event that contents regarding which importing is permitted are imported to the personal computer 1 from the memory card 9, the contents imported to the personal computer 1 are permitted for check-out to the portable device 5-1, for example following which check-in is made from the portable device 5-1. However, moving the contents imported to the personal computer 1 to the memory card 9 is not permitted.

Moving contents will be described with reference to Fig. 6.

The memory card 9 stores moving-permitted contents stored from an EMD server 3, terminal device 6, or portable device 5-4.

In the event that contents regarding which moving is permitted are moved to the personal computer 1 from the memory card 9, the contents moved to the personal computer 1 are permitted for check-out to the portable device 5-1, for example following which check-in is made from the portable device 5-1.

Moving the contents moved to the personal computer 1 on to the memory card 9 is permitted. Further, moving the contents moved to the memory card 9 on to the personal computer 1 is permitted.

However, in the event that contents are moved to the memory card 9 following check-out to the portable device 5-1, the contents stored in the portable device 5-1 are not permitted to be checked-in to the personal computer 1.

Fig. 7 is a diagram illustrating an example of rights information stored in the personal computer 1, corresponding to the contents stored in the rights information storing unit 105. The rights information stored in the personal computer 1 is configured of, for example, the media contents ID, music piece title, equipment ID, equipment contents ID, the number of times of check-out, the file name, and so forth.

The media contents ID is an identifier having a unique value for each music piece, in a manner uniquely corresponding to each music piece, within a recording medium for the personal computer 1, e.g., the HDD 21. The music piece title indicates the title of the music piece.

The equipment ID indicates the ID of the personal computer 1.

The equipment contents ID is an identifier having a unique value for each music piece within the personal